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Fax-on-Demand Document No. 9209
<http://www.bls.gov/ro5>

TRANSMISSION OF MATERIAL IN
THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL:
7:30 A.M. CT
Friday, December 14, 2001

**Consumer Price Index
Midwest Region
November 2001**

Retail prices in the Midwest edged down 0.1 percent in November, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. According to Regional Commissioner Peter J. Hebein, declines in the transportation and apparel components offset increases in the housing and the other goods and services components. The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 172.5 in November, an annual increase of 1.3 percent. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in November 2000 cost \$101.30 in November 2001. In the thirty-five year history of the Midwest CPI, the annual index increased this slowly in only two other periods, 1986 and 1998, both also times of declining world oil prices.

The transportation component declined 1.2 percent in November, following a drop of 4.5 percent in October. Gasoline prices declined 10.2 percent following a 22.2 percent drop in October. Gasoline costs have declined a total of 34.7 percent from their historic high of June 2000. New and used motor vehicle costs rose 0.8 percent in November. Over the year, transportation costs were down 2.8 percent, as new and used motor vehicle prices rose 0.7 percent and gasoline prices fell 23.0 percent.

Table A. Percent changes in the Midwest CPI-U, (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure Category	Changes from preceding month							12 mo. ended Nov. 01
	2000	2001						
	Nov.	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	
All items	0.1	-0.2	-0.7	0.3	0.9	-1.1	-0.1	1.3
Food & beverages	0	.4	.3	.3	.2	.2	-.2	2.9
Housing	-.1	.5	-.1	0	-.4	-.8	.3	1.4
Apparel	-.7	-2.0	-2.4	-.2	3.9	1.5	-1.3	-3.2
Transportation	1.2	-1.9	-4.3	1.2	3.6	-4.5	-1.2	-2.8
Medical care	-.1	.4	.3	.4	.2	.2	.2	5.2
Recreation	-.2	-.1	.2	.3	-.2	-.3	0	2.5
Education & communication	-.7	.1	.8	.5	1.4	.2	.4	3.7
Other goods & services	1.1	-.3	1.9	-1.1	1.7	-.5	1.5	5.8

Housing costs rose 0.3 percent in November. Shelter costs rose 0.3 percent as rent of a primary residence rose 0.4 percent, owner's equivalent rent rose 0.6 percent, and the cost of lodging away from home declined. The fuels and utilities index increased 0.4 percent, reversing four months of decline. Utility natural gas service costs rose 4.8 percent in November, but were still 35.8 percent below their January 2001 level. Electricity costs declined 2.6 percent in November and were down 11.9 percent over the last two months. Electricity costs typically fall in October and November as winter rate schedules go into effect; the two-month decline averaged 9.3 percent over the prior five years. The household furnishings and operations index rose 0.2 percent in November. Over the year, the housing component was up 1.4 percent. Shelter costs rose 3.3 percent, the household fuels index declined 8.8 percent, and household furnishings and operations index declined 0.3 percent.

The other goods and services component rose 1.5 percent in November, driven by rising prices for tobacco and smoking products. Over the year, the other goods and services component was up 5.8 percent.

Apparel prices fell 1.3 percent over the month, the largest November decline since 1995. Over the year, the apparel component was down 3.2 percent.

The food and beverage component declined 0.2 percent in November after posting increases through most of the summer and fall. Prices of food purchased for consumption at home (grocery food) declined 0.6 percent. The cost of food away from home increased 0.3 percent and alcoholic beverage prices edged down 0.1 percent. Over the year, the food and beverage component was up 2.9 percent as the cost of food at home rose 3.1 percent and the cost of food away from home rose 2.8 percent. Alcoholic beverage prices rose 2.7 percent over the year.

The education and communication component rose 0.4 percent in November. Over the year, the education and communication component increased 3.7 percent.

Medical care costs rose 0.2 percent in November. Over the year, the medical care component was up 5.2 percent. The cost of medical care services rose 5.5 percent over the year while medical care commodity prices rose 4.2 percent.

The recreation component was unchanged in November following small declines in September and October. Over the year, recreation costs were up 2.5 percent.

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Scheduled release date for the December 2001 CPI:
Wednesday, January 16, 2002

NOTE: The 'North Central' region has been renamed the 'Midwest' region by the Census Bureau. It is composed of the same geographic entities including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

CPI HOTLINE SERVICE PROVIDES LATEST INDEXES 24 HOURS A DAY

The all items CPI-U and CPI-W for the U.S. City Average and for the Chicago area are available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Bureau's CPI Hotline service. This recorded message also provides percent changes from the prior period and from a year earlier as well as the scheduled release date for the next CPI issuance. The Hotline number in Chicago is (312) 353-1880. Select option #2 from the main menu.

BLS FAX-ON-DEMAND SERVICE OFFERS CPI DATA 24 HOURS A DAY

If you have a fax machine and a touch-tone telephone, you can order current and historical CPI data and receive it within minutes by fax. The BLS Fax-on-Demand service offers over 280 documents containing the most popular BLS data including more than 65 documents containing CPI data for the nation, four regions, and 30 metropolitan areas. To receive by fax a catalog of documents available on the service, call 312 353-1880, select option 1 from the main menu, and when prompted, order document 1000.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPI's for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 50,000 housing units and approximately 23,000 retail establishments-- department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index. Prices of food, fuels and a few other items are obtained every month in all 87 location. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the three largest geographic areas and every other month in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classes, and for 26 local area. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities, they only measure the average change in prices for each base period.

The index measure prices changes from a designated reference data (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65.

For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Bulletin 2490, Chapter 17, April 1997, The Consumer Price Index, also available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/mpbls/oplc001.htm.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Midwest¹ (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2000	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001
Expenditure category						
All items	174.6	172.6	172.5	1.3	-1.2	-0.1
All items (December 1977=100)	284.0	280.9	280.6	-	-	-
Food and beverages	171.8	172.1	171.8	2.9	.0	-.2
Food	171.1	171.5	171.1	3.0	.0	-.2
Food at home	170.5	170.8	169.8	3.1	-.4	-.6
Food away from home	172.6	173.2	173.8	2.8	.7	.3
Alcoholic beverages	180.1	180.4	180.2	2.7	.1	-.1
Housing	169.4	168.0	168.5	1.4	-.5	.3
Shelter	195.6	196.0	196.6	3.3	.5	.3
Rent of primary residence ²	186.9	187.5	188.3	4.0	.7	.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{2 3}	200.8	201.7	203.0	3.9	1.1	.6
Fuels and utilities	142.5	132.8	133.3	-6.9	-6.5	.4
Fuels	125.0	114.6	115.2	-8.8	-7.8	.5
Gas (piped) and electricity ²	130.4	119.4	120.2	-8.6	-7.8	.7
Electricity ²	136.3	123.3	120.1	-.5	-11.9	-2.6
Utility natural gas service ²	126.2	117.5	123.1	-16.7	-2.5	4.8
Household furnishings and operations	124.9	124.2	124.4	-.3	-.4	.2
Apparel	123.8	125.6	124.0	-3.2	.2	-1.3
Transportation	159.5	152.3	150.5	-2.8	-5.6	-1.2
Private transportation	155.1	147.9	146.2	-2.8	-5.7	-1.1
New and used motor vehicles ⁴	101.1	101.8	102.6	.7	1.5	.8
New vehicles	137.9	139.4	141.7	1.6	2.8	1.6
New cars and trucks ^{4 5}	97.4	98.5	100.1	1.4	2.8	1.6
New cars ⁵	133.1	134.3	136.5	1.6	2.6	1.6
Used cars and trucks	157.9	158.2	157.8	-1.4	-.1	-.3
Motor fuel	148.7	115.7	103.9	-23.0	-30.1	-10.2
Gasoline (all types)	148.1	115.1	103.4	-23.0	-30.2	-10.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁵	147.5	114.1	101.4	-23.8	-31.3	-11.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{5 6}	161.5	125.2	113.6	-23.0	-29.7	-9.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁵	149.7	118.3	107.2	-21.6	-28.4	-9.4
Medical care	270.4	271.0	271.5	5.2	.4	.2
Medical care commodities	244.3	244.5	245.4	4.2	.5	.4
Medical care services	277.4	278.1	278.5	5.5	.4	.1
Professional services ²	254.2	255.1	255.3	5.1	.4	.1
Recreation ⁴	106.2	105.9	105.9	2.5	-.3	.0
Education and communication ⁴	108.2	108.4	108.8	3.7	.6	.4
Other goods and services	280.8	279.3	283.4	5.8	.9	1.5
Commodity and service group						
All items	174.6	172.6	172.5	1.3	-1.2	-.1
Commodities	151.6	148.5	147.5	-1.0	-2.7	-.7
Commodities less food and beverages	140.2	135.6	134.3	-3.2	-4.2	-1.0
Nondurables less food and beverages	155.0	145.9	142.9	-5.1	-7.8	-2.1
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	176.7	161.2	157.2	-6.0	-11.0	-2.5
Durables	122.0	122.4	123.1	-.7	.9	.6
Services	198.8	198.0	198.7	3.0	-.1	.4
Rent of shelter ³	201.0	201.4	202.0	3.2	.5	.3
Transportation services	206.9	207.8	208.7	4.4	.9	.4
Other services	234.8	235.3	236.1	4.9	.6	.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods-Continued

Midwest¹ (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2000	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	169.6	167.6	167.3	1.0	-1.4	-0.2
All items less food	175.1	172.8	172.6	.9	-1.4	-.1
All items less shelter	168.6	165.9	165.5	.5	-1.8	-.2
Commodities less food	141.7	137.2	135.9	-3.1	-4.1	-.9
Nondurables	163.6	159.0	157.2	-1.1	-3.9	-1.1
Nondurables less food	156.6	147.9	145.0	-4.7	-7.4	-2.0
Nondurables less food and apparel	176.7	162.3	158.6	-5.4	-10.2	-2.3
Services less rent of shelter ³	207.2	205.3	206.0	2.8	-.6	.3
Services less medical care services	191.9	191.0	191.7	2.8	-.1	.4
Energy	134.9	114.4	109.4	-15.5	-18.9	-4.4
All items less energy	180.7	181.1	181.5	2.8	.4	.2
All items less food and energy	183.1	183.5	184.1	2.8	.5	.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	144.4	144.7	145.2	.2	.6	.3
Energy commodities	147.8	115.9	104.6	-22.5	-29.2	-9.7
Services less energy services	207.5	208.0	208.6	3.9	.5	.3

¹ The 'North Central' region has been renamed the 'Midwest' region by the Census Bureau. It is composed of the same geographic entities.

² This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

³ Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

⁵ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁶ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Selected areas, all items index

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

Area	Pricing schedule 1	All items									
		Indexes				Percent change to Nov.2001 from—			Percent change to Oct.2001 from—		
		Aug. 2001	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2000	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001	Oct. 2000	Aug. 2001	Sep. 2001
U.S. city average	M	177.5	178.3	177.7	177.4	1.9	-0.5	-0.2	2.1	0.1	-0.3
Region and area size²											
Northeast urban	M	185.1	185.1	185.0	185.0	1.9	-1	.0	2.1	-1	-1
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	186.5	186.5	186.3	186.1	2.0	-2	-1	2.3	-1	-1
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	110.5	110.4	110.6	110.9	1.8	.5	.3	1.7	.1	.2
Midwest urban	M	173.0	174.6	172.6	172.5	1.3	-1.2	-1	1.5	-2	-1.1
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	174.8	176.1	174.5	174.2	1.5	-1.1	-2	1.7	-2	-9
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	110.3	111.6	110.0	110.0	1.0	-1.4	.0	1.1	-3	-1.4
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	M	166.8	168.8	166.9	166.3	.8	-1.5	-4	1.2	.1	-1.1
South urban	M	171.5	172.2	171.7	171.0	1.4	-7	-4	1.9	.1	-3
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	172.3	173.2	173.1	172.2	2.2	-6	-5	2.7	.5	-1
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	109.8	110.2	109.7	109.4	1.1	-7	-3	1.5	-1	-5
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	M	170.1	169.7	169.9	168.9	1.0	-5	-6	1.4	-1	.1
West urban	M	181.9	182.5	182.5	182.3	2.9	-1	-1	3.0	.3	.0
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	184.1	184.7	184.6	184.3	3.1	-2	-2	3.1	.3	-1
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	111.2	111.7	112.1	112.0	2.6	.3	-1	2.8	.8	.4
Size classes											
A ⁴	M	161.9	162.5	162.0	161.7	2.2	-5	-2	2.5	.1	-3
B/C ³	M	110.2	110.8	110.3	110.2	1.4	-5	-1	1.7	.1	-5
D	M	171.2	172.0	171.5	170.8	1.3	-7	-4	1.7	.2	-3
Selected local areas⁵											
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI	M	178.1	179.7	178.1	177.4	.8	-1.3	-4	1.5	.0	-9
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA ..	M	178.4	178.8	178.3	178.1	2.7	-4	-1	2.6	-1	-3
New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA	M	188.1	188.0	187.8	187.8	1.7	-1	.0	1.7	-2	-1
Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT	1	-	192.7	-	192.7	2.8	.0	-	-	-	-
Cleveland-Akron, OH	1	-	174.6	-	172.3	1.7	-1.3	-	-	-	-
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	-	172.8	-	171.5	2.8	-8	-	-	-	-
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV ⁶	1	-	111.7	-	110.9	2.2	-7	-	-	-	-
Atlanta, GA	2	176.9	-	176.7	-	-	-	-	2.8	-1	-
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI	2	175.1	-	174.8	-	-	-	-	1.7	-2	-
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX	2	158.6	-	159.4	-	-	-	-	1.5	.5	-
Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL	2	173.5	-	174.2	-	-	-	-	2.7	.4	-
Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD	2	182.8	-	182.9	-	-	-	-	2.8	.1	-
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA	2	191.0	-	191.7	-	-	-	-	4.5	.4	-
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA	2	186.8	-	187.9	-	-	-	-	3.2	.6	-

¹ Foods, fuels, and several other items priced every month in all areas; most other goods and services priced as indicated:

M - Every month.

1 - January, March, May, July, September, and November.

2 - February, April, June, August, October, and December.

² Regions defined as the four Census regions. See map in technical notes.

³ Indexes on a December 1996=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1986=100 base.

⁵ In addition, the following metropolitan areas are published semiannually and appear in Tables 34 and 39 of the January and July issues of the CPI Detailed Report: Anchorage, AK; Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN; Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO; Honolulu, HI; Kansas City, MO-KS; Milwaukee-Racine, WI; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI; Pittsburgh, PA;

Portland-Salem, OR-WA; St. Louis, MO-IL; San Diego, CA; Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL.

⁶ Indexes on a November 1996=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Local area indexes are byproducts of the national CPI program. Each local index has a smaller sample size than the national index and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are similar. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in their escalator clauses.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.